A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, May 23. 1710.

IN All Ages, and under all Governments, it has been counted reasonable, that the Titles of their Princes to the Crown, being first determin'd and settled by the Publick Authority of their Country, should no more be Controverted or Disputed by the Subject. I could give innumerable Instances of this in *England*; Queen *Elizabeth* expresly forbid her Subjects so much as to speak of the Successor, and punished severely some Printers and Authors too, who presum'd to Publish their Notions, upon the Queen of *Scots* Claim to the Crown: *Henry* VII. forbid the Controverting, or so much as mentioning his Right, by the Marriage of the Lady *Elizabeth*: The Lord Keepers *Bacon*, and *Hales*, a Man of Eminent Quality and Learning, were both accused, and the last put in Prison, in the second Year of Queen *Elizabeth*; one for Writing, and the other but for being Privy to a Book written about the Right of Succession, after Queen *Elizabeth*'s Death, which did not happen in 42 Years after: *See Cambden's Eliz. fol.* 73. In the late King's Reign, it is declar'd Criminal by Act of Parliament, to Controvert the King's Right to the Crown; in expres Terms, thus;

If any Person or Persons, shall from and after the said first Day of May, *Maliciously by Writing, Printing, Teaching or advised Speaking, utter, publish, or declare, That his presen*

ſent Majeſty is not the Lawful and Rightful King of theſe Realms, or that the late King James, *or the Pretended Prince of* Wales, *hath any Right or Title to the Crown of theſe Realms, or that any other Perſon or Perſons, hath or have any Right or Title to the ſame, otherwiſe than according to an Act of Parliament, made in the firſt Year of the Reign of his preſent Majeſty, and the late Queen, Intitled, An Act declaring the Rights and Liberties of the Subject, and ſettling the Succeſſion of the Crown; ſuch Perſon or Perſons, being thereof Lawfully Convicted, ſhall incurr the Danger and Penalty of Præmunire, mention'd in the Statute of Præmunire, made in the 16th Year of the Reign of King* Richard II. 7 Gulielm. III. cap. 27.

It is a plain Breach of our Allegiance to her Majeſty, and is an Invaſion of her undoubted Right, to ſay ſhe has any other Title to the Crown, than what the Laws ſay is her Majeſty's Title——— Or to ſay that Title by which her Majeſty enjoys the Crown——by which the Laws have ſettled it, and on which her Majeſty accepted it, is not her Majeſty's Title——— And it is evident from this Statute, that it was a Præmunire to any Man, to write or ſpeak of any other, than a Parliamentary Title.

Now is not the new faſhion'd Abſurdity of *an Hereditary Right*, a forcing the Nation to Controvert her Majeſty's Title; is it not another Right, than what is according to Act of Parliament——— Is it not a Claim ſeparate from, and in ſome Meaſure Contravening the Act of Settlement?——— Let them that plead it, conſider then what they are doing, what Penalty they incurr to themſelves, and that a time may come, and is not far off, when they may be call'd to an Account for it.

The next Thing to enquire is, Did her Majeſty enter upon the Government of theſe Realms, and take Poſſeſſion of the Crown, upon the Death of King *William*, upon Terms of Hereditary Right, or upon the Foot of Parliamentary Limitation?——— This is evident from her Majeſty's Proclamation upon the Demiſe of King *William*, which Proclamation mentions not one Word of Hereditay Succeſſion, but recites and referrs to the Act of Limitation, whereby the Crown is Entail'd upon her Majeſty by Parliament, and becomes her Majeſty's Right, not as Heir at Law to K. *James*, for that in the Senſe of the Law of Devolution, could not be, unleſs the Son pretending, had not been, or had been declar'd Illegitimate; but as Heir in Tail declar'd by Parliament, and ſettled by Legiſlative Limitation.

Ridiculous Addreſſers! Banter her Majeſty no more——— And Affront your Sovereign no more, with your Party Cant and a Sham Title, under the pretence and cover whereof, innumerable Snares lie hid, and which her Majeſty and the whole Nation plainly ſees; *ſuch as* Exploding the Revolution, unſettling the Succeſſion, and reſtoring your Abdicated Pretender——— Theſe Things, I ſay, the Queen and the Nation ſee; and you may aſſure your ſelves the Scripture will ſtill be true——That *ſurely in vain is the Net ſpread in the ſight of any Bird.*

I come now to the Doctrine of Reſiſtance, which is Condemn'd by this Party, as Anti-Chriſtian and Heretical; I ſhall let them ſee quickly, who all this is pointed at——— And in the mean time, I ſhall give them a Pill to Chew upon, if they pleaſe *(Viz.)* a Warrant Iſſued out by the High Conſtables, for raiſing the *Poſſe* in the Country, when her preſent Majeſty, my Lord of *London*, and a Train of the beſt Quality in this Nation, practiſed that very Doctrine, theſe Mad High Party now Condemn——— and I give it them now without any Comment, that they may have time to conſider, whether this was *Reſiſtance of a Lawful Sovereign, OR NO*——— I ſhall after examin, whether it was *a Lawful Reſiſtance, OR NO.*

Warwick ſſ. To the Conſtables of *Stratford* Burrough.

Whereas her Royal Highneſs the Princeſs Anne of Denemark, *hath eſcaped out of the Hands of her Enemies, into theſe Parts requiring Protection; therefore the Deputy Lieutenants Commanded me by Warrant, to Iſſue out my Precepts to every petty Conſtable within.*

in my Devision, to raise all the Train'd Soldiers within their respective Parishes, Horse and Foot; and they are all personally to appear at Warwick, *sometime to Day, the 12th Instant* December, *with each one Musquet, 14 Bullets, and 30 Days Pay; fail not.*

Tho. Wallford.

We are now told of a New Association in ..... where they say (as is publish'd in the *Post-Boy*) that the Gentlemen have resolv'd not to Trade, Buy, or Sell, with any *Dissenter* ——— I own I take it on the *Post Boy's* Credit, and that I can hardly yet give Credit to the Fact; however I cannot but give the *High-Church* Men Joy of their Project, and tell them, I shall convince them, that whenever they will get an Act of Parliament to Encourage and settle that Resolution; the *Whigs* will heartily join in it, and from that Minute may date their Ruin, for they will be undone in the Quarrel —— It would make a Million of *Dissenters* in half a Years Time, more than there are now, and in Time ruin their whole Party. So mad are these People, and so blind is their furious Zeal, that it is plain they really know not what they are a doing, of which at large in it's Place; I intreat them to go on with it by all means, and let us see how simply they will look, when their own Poor come to them for Employment: *O Hominem! O Mores*

MISCELLANEA.

I Wonder much that our People cannot be content with Justice, when they have it, but they must run it up to Extremities ——No Man was forwarder than the Author of this, to Vindicate the Justice of the late Act of Parliament, against the Clamours of the Bakers, and to put you in a Way, how to bring the Bakers to comply with their Duty, and the Law,

Now so extravagant are some People, in the other extreme, that we must run Mad upon the Letter of the Law; and leave the Meaning quite out of sight —— And this brings more Inconveniencies upon us, than the Law when executed will prevent ——And that which is worse, all this about a Trifle; a Thing in which the Affair of Right and Wrong, is not at all concern'd, (*Viz.*) *not the Weight of Bread*, but the *Make of the Loaf*: Great is the Wisdom and Penetration of our Magistrates! and mighty their Zeal for putting the Laws in Execution —— That in Obedience to the Act of Parliament, no Bread must be bak'd but 6*d.* 12*d.* 18*d.* Loaves, and under the same Penalty as a Deficiency of Weight—— *And this* in meer Superstition to the Letter of the Act, which has form'd the Assize upon that kind of Loaves ——— *As it must of Necessity do upon one kind or other*; A S I F Quarterns and half Pecks were not the same thing, provided the Proportion of Weight be observ'd, which is the *Essential Meaning* of the Act ——— This puts the poor People, not here only, but all over *Britain* so out of the Road, and obliges them all to enquire into the new Sizes of their Bread, *that now* we have all the Noise of the Town, and the Clamour of the People remov'd from the Bakers, to the Parliament; and the People fancy they have less Bread for their Money, than they had before.

And this may be too true, *for ought I know*, while a certain Magistrate I *could name*, fines a poor Baker for making a half Peck Loaf, tho' full Weight, and letting another go with 11 Ounces short of weight, only because it was a Twelve-peny Loaf ——— So ridiculous is the Justice of this Age grown to, that the Magistrate prefers the Shell of the Law before the Kernel, the Out-side before the Inside ——— pursuing Trifles, and leaving the Substance—— What work would our Laws make among us, if they were litterally Executed, against Swearing, Drunkenness, Breach of the Sabbath, Whoremasters, &c.

Never

Never let our Magiſtrates fancy themſelves ſo ty'd up, 'tis the Weight of our Bread, not the Size of our Loaves, that the Act of Parliament means; when it has given you Tables of Aſſizes, *it was* to regulate the Univerſal Aſſize, and it was fix'd upon Twelve-peny and Eighteen-peny, *&c.* becauſe *he that ſpeaks, muſt ſpeak ſome Language or other*, or elſe he cannot be underſtood——— But the Act is plain, it gives power to the Magiſtrates to order what Sizes of Bread they think fit; only ACCORDING or *in* PROPORTION to the following Table——— five parts in ſix of all the Nation, never ſaw the Size of a Twelve-peny Loaf; but every Country have their Bread according to ſuch Size, as has been the Cuſtom of the Place, perhaps before our Magiſtrates Grandfathers were little Boys———And it is evident, they may continue the ſame Aſſize to the End of the Chapter, *provided only* they keep up *the Proportion of Weight* to the Parliament Tables; any *wiſe* or *otherwiſe* Opinion of Corporation Politicks to the contrary notwithſtanding.

I ſhall examin ſome other Follies in this Bread-baking Affair in their Courſe; in which the Bakers ſhall have no Reaſon to Complain I ſhall be Injurious to them, tho' I am very willing to have them proſcrib'd by Law, from Impoſing upon the Poor.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Juſt Publiſh'd,

INſtructions from *Rome* in Favour of the Pretender, inſcrib'd to the moſt Elevated *Don Sacheverello*, and his Brother *Don Higginiſco*; and which all *Perkinites*, *Non-Jurors*, *High-Flyers*, *Popiſh-Deſirers*, *Wooden-Shoe Admirers*, and abſolute *Non-Reſiſtance Drivers*, are obligd to Purſue, and maintain (under pain of his Unholineſs's Damnation) in order to carry on their intended Subverſion of a Government fix'd upon Revolution Principles. Note, the aforeſaid Book is worthy the Peruſal of all True Lovers of their Country, particularly thoſe Inhabitants reſiding in and about *White Chapel* Sold by *J. Baker*, at the *Black-Boy* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. Price 2 *d.* Where may be had the *Idol* of *Paris*. Written by a Lady, upon her Departure for the *New Atalantis*. Price 1 *d.*

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Printed for the Author; and ſold by *John Baker*, at the *Black Boy* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. 1710.